



THE SALT LAKE HERALD.

SIXTEEN PAGES.



TWENTY-SIXTH YEAR

SALT LAKE CITY, SUNDAY MAY 24, 1896.

NUMBER 214.

THAT CHURCH TRAGEDY

Rev. Francis Hermans
Charged With the
Crime of Murder.

HANSON COMPLAINANT.

New Developments at Every
Step of the Investi-
gation.

TWO VICTIMS DISCOVERED.

Henrietta Clausen and Annie
Samuelson, Both Young
Girls.

Letters from the Pastor—He Was
Short in His Accounts—Barrel
Found, on the Head of Which It
Is Supposed the Body Was Nati-
vity—Hermans Had a Stock of
Drugs and Poisons on Hand—He
Pawed a Watch and Ring Be-
longing to Miss Samuelson—Many
Startling Discoveries Made Yes-
terday—The Tragedy the Sole
Topic of Discussion Throughout
the City—Thousands of Heralds
Containing the Exclusive Report
of the Affair Sold.

When The Herald, containing the ex-
clusive account of the horrible discov-
eries made at the Scandinavian Metho-
dist church, appeared on the streets
yesterday morning it caused a pro-
found sensation, the like of which has
not been witnessed for many a day.
And as the hours wore on and the
peaceful city gradually awakened, the
sensation increased. The importance of
this feature was fully appreciated, and
The Herald prepared for a great de-
mand for papers. Extra bundles were
sent to all of the nearby towns and a
big supply was kept on hand in the
counting room. But the demand ex-
ceeded all estimates. The newsboys
sold papers by the hundreds and every
one wanted a Herald. People called at
the business office in one steady stream
and the presses were kept running un-
til 11 a. m. The rush continued
throughout the day, and late at night
people who had failed to secure a
copy came up to the editorial rooms.

SOMEWHAT PERSONAL.
The news of the discoveries was of
such a startling nature that a few peo-
ple tried to discredit it. They shortly
discovered, however, that the story was
correct in all its details and that there
was much more to come. Then these
interested parties volunteered the in-
formation that The Herald had in some
way, they didn't know how, violated a
compact.

All of which is hush. The facts are
simply that on Friday afternoon, the
city editor of the paper, by the merest
chance, came upon a clue to the case.
With a reporter, an investigation was
started, and by evening, the outlines of
the story had been secured. But it was
not until 2 o'clock yesterday morning
that the details had been filled in.
During the entire time, not one word
of information was received from any
official nor from any person connected
with the case in an official way. It is
said that Chief Pratt had previously
confided to one of the owners of the
Tribune a statement of the case, with
the understanding that it was not to
be used until permission was given and



Bottle of Poison from the Pastor's
Collection.

developments justified it. No informa-
tion of any sort concerning the case
was ever given by any official to The
Herald. If that had been done, and
Chief Pratt had requested that the

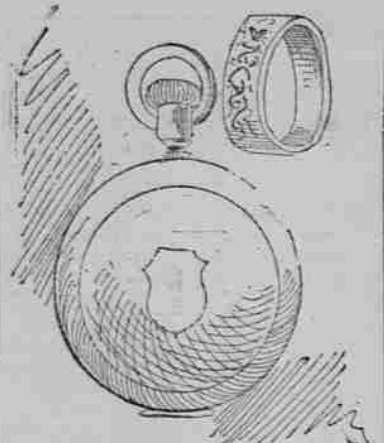
publication be withheld for the time,
it would have been agreed to. As the
matter stands, The Herald was under
no agreement with any one; its re-
porters simply worked out the puzzle
in their own way and by their own
efforts.

YESTERDAY'S DEVELOPMENTS.

Yesterday's developments were of a
nature bordering on the startling.

John Hanson, who is connected with
the church, swore to a complaint charg-
ing Rev. Francis Hermans with mur-
dering Miss Henrietta Clausen by
poisoning.

The officials ordered a large number
of photographs of the missing minister,
and they will be at once sent over the
country, and it is believed that in a



Watch and Ring Belonging to An-
nie Samuelson, Pawed by Pastor
Hermans.

very short time, the pastor will be ap-
prehended in case he does not surren-
der.

It developed during the day that Miss
Annie Samuelson, a handsome young
woman and an intimate friend of Miss
Clausen and the minister, had also
mysteriously disappeared and no trace
of her has since been found.

The pastor's study was searched, and
in his trunk were found articles be-
longing to both of the missing girls.

These are but a few of the many de-
tails that have come to light and the
officials are now thoroughly convinced
that Miss Clausen was deliberately
murdered by the minister and her body
cremated.



REV. FRANCIS HERMANS.

(Photo by Madsen Bros., Commercial Street.)

THE FIRST MOVE.

Instituted by John Hanson, For-
merly a Methodist Minister.

To John Hanson belongs the credit
of making the first move which led to
the discovery of the greatest crime in
the history of Utah. Mr. Hanson, as
previously stated, resides in the second
story of the church. He was formerly
a Methodist minister, but lately has
followed journalism. He is a gentle-
man of refinement and intelligence and
the story which led to the finding of
the charred bones supposed to be those
belonging to Henrietta Clausen are
best told in his own words.

"Ever since the disappearance of Miss
Clausen," began Mr. Hanson when ap-
proached by a Herald man, "we have
suspected that something was wrong.
Of course, no one thought that such a
tragedy could have been possible. We
thought the disappearance was en-
shrouded in such peculiar circum-
stances that my wife caused to be in-
serted in a Scandinavian paper at
Portland, an inquiry as to the where-
abouts of the missing girl. This was
during the early part of last fall and
also during the past winter. Of course,
all search was in vain and I began to

harbor the thought that something of
the unusual had befallen the girl.

THE FIRE IN THE FURNACE.

"Last Thursday, for the first time,
I heard of the fire in the furnace. My
suspicion was at once aroused and
seeking Rev. Mark, the presiding elder,
we went into the basement and inspec-
ted the furnace. We found some
bones in the ash box of the furnace and
some bits of a belt, buckles and other
things that more than ever confirmed
the suspicion already within my mind.
We had no manner of knowing that
the bones found were those of a hu-
man body and so to satisfy ourselves
took them to Dr. Jensen. He was
not sure they were human bones, but
suspected it strongly and thereupon
myself and Mark notified the chief of
police. In conjunction with him we
have followed out the investigation,
and you know the result."

LAST SEEN OF THE GIRL.

"Questioned about the disappearance
of Miss Clausen the reporter was in-
formed by Mr. Hanson that she was
fully related in The Herald of yester-
day. The last seen of the missing
woman was on Sunday evening, Sept. 23.
After the evening services in the
church were over, Rev. Hermans and
Miss Clausen were standing at the top
of the stairway in front of the door
leading to Mr. and Mrs. Hanson's
apartments.

"I remember it so distinctly," said
Mr. Hanson.

"We were standing there conversing
together when Rev. Hermans passed
us to go down into his study, where
Miss Clausen had been sleeping the
past few nights. As he got down to
the foot of the stairs he spoke to Miss
Clausen, asking her to bring down his
silk hat, which she did. It was just
about 9:30 o'clock in the evening. We
chatted there together for some time,
and Miss Clausen finally bid us good-
night. That was the last ever seen of
Miss Clausen."

"Did Rev. Hermans ever offer any
explanation as to how the girl disap-
peared?"

HERMANS' EXPLANATION.

"Yes," he told us that after entering
the study that night she made an im-
proper proposal to him, and that being
sternly rebuked, she packed up a few
of her belongings and departed about
midnight, since which time he con-
fessed ignorance as to her where-
abouts."

Such were substantially the main
points of the story told by the man
who, aside from the murderer, last saw
Henrietta Clausen alive. The above
was also the story upon which the
police have been prosecuting their in-
vestigation, and which has resulted in
the unearthing of the crime.

AUTHORITIES TAKE HOLD.

The investigation pushed with the
utmost vigor yesterday.

When the facts, as published in The
Herald, became known, the police and
county authorities entered upon an
investigation in earnest. The discov-
eries were the most startling in their
nature and seem to form link upon
link in the chain of circumstantial evi-
dence which is being woven around
Rev. Hermans. In his study in the
church were found two trunks, and

or W. W. Waters of this city at 9:30
tonight killed Harry Martin, a doctor's
drummer on the street by cutting his
throat with a pocket knife. The kill-
ing grew out of the war being waged
on the drummers of the city by the
city authorities. Martin accosted
Waters on the street and a quarrel
arose when the mayor drew his knife
and cut Martin's throat from ear to
ear. The mayor was arrested and is
at the sheriff's office tonight.

Mayor Waters gained national notori-
ety through his connection with the
Corbett-Fitzsimmons fiasco.

Blancher's Case.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 23.—J. E.
Blancher, the suspected murderer of Mrs.
Langfeldt, has been traced to El Paso,
Texas. He bought a first-class ticket last
Saturday evening at Martinez through to
El Paso. He signed his name as H. M.
Forbes. This ticket has been returned
to the auditing department of the South-
ern Pacific, showing that it had been used
on the train. They have positively
identified photographs of him, as those
of a passenger on their train. The
attention of the men was particularly
called to Blancher because he ate all
his meals in the dining car without re-
moving his gloves. It is known that in
cutting Mrs. Langfeldt's throat, the
murderer also cut one of his hands,
and it is supposed that he endeavored
to conceal this wound prompted Blancher
to wear gloves.

SACRAMENTO, Cal., May 23.—Governor
Budd has offered a reward of
\$1,000 for the arrest of Joseph Blancher,
who is believed to have murdered Mrs.
Philomena Langfeldt, at San Francisco
last Friday night.

Charged With Perjury.

TORONTO, Ont., May 23.—Detective
Porter, of this city, and Detective Ba-
ker, of Detroit, arrested Mrs. Ellen
Gertrude Bolger, who has lived with
her husband at 69 Van Auley street,
on a charge of having committed per-
jury in Detroit a few weeks ago. On
April 11, Mrs. Nellie Morse, a mill-
iner in Detroit, insured her stock for
\$800. Two days later there was a fire
in her shop and she made a claim on
the insurance companies stating that
two men had aided her in extinguish-
ing the blaze without help from the
firemen. When the insurance people
were called in to inspect, they found
the entire stock drenched with water,
but not damaged by fire. One of Mrs.
Morse's witnesses was Mrs. Bolger
and she is now wanted on the charge
of perjury. She may fight extradition.

Mr. Becker's Trunk.

NEW YORK, May 23.—The police of
Jersey City, N. J., have seized three
trunks of Charles Becker, who is under
arrest in Newark charged with being
concerned in a transaction through
which the Nevada bank, of San Fran-
cisco, was swindled out of \$20,000. No-
thing but the wearing apparel of Becker
was found.

BURNED UP MAIL.

DENVER, Colo., May 23.—A special
to the Times from Cripple Creek says:
Citizens are indignant because wa-
gon-loads of mail have been taken
from the postoffice and been burned.
Much of it was plainly addressed to a
box number. In the destroyed mail
were letters addressed to other places.
Postmaster Rose says the mail was
burned by order of the postoffice in-
spector.

HIG SUIT IN CHEYENNE.

(Special to The Herald.)
CHEYENNE, Wyo., May 23.—Mrs.
Susan D. Carey of Philadelphia, com-
menced suit in the United States court
here today to compel the treasurer of
Natona county to pay for \$4,000 worth
of county warrants held by the plain-
tiff, who claims that county money is

The Deadly Penknife.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., May 23.—May-



"WAIT FOR THE WAGON AND WE'LL ALL TAKE A RIDE."

BUTCHERED IN THEIR HOME

Entire Family Wiped Out by
Robbers, Near Ava, Missouri.

THE WORK WAS FIENDISH.

HAD BUT LITTLE MONEY IN THE
HOUSE.

Their Wagon and Team Missing—
Lunatic at Chico, Cal., Kills His
Wife and Then Himself, Because
of His Prospective Arrest For In-
sanity—Phillip Allen, the Wife-
Murderer Captured—Other Crimes
and Criminals.

AVA, Mo., May 23.—The members of
the Sawyer family, consisting of father,
mother and grown up son, were dis-
covered in their home, one mile east
of this place, today, foully murdered.

Ernest E. Sawyer, the son, had stab
wounds in the throat and breast, had
both jaws broken and head and face
beaten into a jelly. He had evidently
been murdered in the barn and the
body dragged into the house. The skulls
of both father and mother were crushed
in. Mrs. Sawyer's left arm was also
broken, evidently in trying to ward off
a murderous blow. The three bodies
were found piled together under a bed.
The doors of the small box cabin in
which the family lived were both fast-
ened and the window blinds had been
drawn. On the front door was a card,
upon which had been scrawled the
words: "We are gone to Ozark; will
be back Monday or Tuesday."

This is supposed to have been left by
the murderer. The object of the crime
appears to have been robbery. The
Sawyers came here from Linn county,
Iowa, last November, and were peace-
able, hard working people. They are
known to have had about \$30 in the
cabin. Their team and wagon are
missing. The murder is believed to
have been committed Wednesday even-
ing. A young man who recently came
here from northern Kansas and who
was seen in company with young Saw-
yer on Wednesday evening is missing.
There is strong suspicion against him.
Should he be apprehended and there
be incriminating evidence against him,
he will surely be lynched.

Allen is Captured.

MINNEAPOLIS Minn., May 23.—A
special to the Journal from Deer Lodge
Mont. says:

Phillip Allen the man who last Sat-
urday killed his divorced wife and
then fled is captured. A reward of
\$1,000 had been offered for his capture,
dead or alive, and armed parties had
been searching for him a week.

He was taken by surprise and no
blood was shed. For fear of lynching
he was lodged in the state penitentiary
at Deer Lodge. Allen killed a man
in 1888 and disappeared only to return
and deliberately shoot his wife, aged
55, who after his disappearance secured
a divorce and married again.

Crime of a Lunatic.

CHICO, Cal., May 23.—This afternoon
Richard Little, 56 years of age, shot
his wife with a Winchester rifle and
then placing the weapon to his own
throat, fired a bullet through his
head, using a stick to spring the trig-
ger. Both died instantly. The wife was
only 19 years old. Little had been
insane for some time and a constable
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